

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSCE-00 HA-05 SS-15 SSO-00
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 CA-01 L-03
/048 W

-----062715 172144Z /23

O 172135Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8065

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN PUBLIC REACTION TO SOVIET TRIALS

REF: (A) STATE 178559; (B) STATE 172813; (C) OTTAWA 3436

DEPT FOR INR

1. TRIALS OF SCHARANSKY AND GINZBURG HAVE DRAWN MASSIVE
MEDIA ATTENTION IN CANADA, AS REPORTED REFTEL C, AND
HAVE LED TO FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY CANADIAN GOVT:

2. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JAMIESON, IN
ADDITION TO OFFICIAL REACTION DESCRIBED IN STATE REFTEL B,
WAS INTERVIEWED BY CTV-NETWORK'S "QUESTION PERIOD"
PROGRAM, TAPED ON JULY 12 AND BROADCAST JULY 16, AND
DISCUSSED TRIALS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, JAMIESON
STATED THAT DETENTE MUST BE MAINTAINED DESPITE THE
DEPLORABLE SOVIET TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS. JAMIESON
STRESSED THAT PROBLEMS OF THE SOVIET DISSIDENTS WOULD
BE FAR MORE SEVERE IF THERE WERE NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE SOVIET UNION AND WESTERN COUNTRIES. JAMIESON ADDED
THAT "WITHOUT DETENTE, THE PROSPECTS FOR A DETERIORATION
AND THEREFORE FOR GLOBAL CONFLICT WOULD BE VERY REAL
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INDEED." "TO CONTEMPLATE A WORLD IN WHICH THERE ARE TWO
SOLITUDES IN THE SENSE OF THE SUPERPOWERS NOT TALKING
TO EACH OTHER, CONSTANTLY AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS IN ONE
FORM OR ANOTHER, WOULD BE DISASTROUS," HE THOUGHT.

3. PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU, SPEAKING ON JULY 14, SAID
THE TRIALS AND THE SENTENCING OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS "WILL

UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR DETENTE."
TRUDEAU SAID HE WAS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE
SENTENCING. TRUDEAU ALSO RESTATED A LONG-STANDING
CANADIAN OFFER TO ALLOW SHCHARANSKY TO IMMIGRATE TO CANADA
IF HE IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION. SHCHARANSKY
HAS ABOUT 40 RELATIVES LIVING IN CANADA, AND THEIR
STATEMENTS HAVE RECEIVED PROMINENT MEDIA COVERAGE.

4. THUS FAR, EMBASSY HAS NOT NOTED ANY PUBLISHED
STATEMENTS BY LEADERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES, BUT THIS
MAY BE DUE TO CURRENT RECESS OF PARLIAMENT. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OTTAWA03542
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780293-0500
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780752/aaaabrwa.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fae77f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 178559, 78 STATE 172813, 78 OTTAWA 3436
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1986335
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADIAN PUBLIC REACTION TO SOVIET TRIALS
TAGS: SHUM, UR, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fae77f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014